

Southeast Asia

I. Geography of Southeast Asia

A. Location

1. Mainland set apart by mountains and plateaus.
2. More than 20,000 islands lie between Indian Ocean and South China Sea.

B. Trade routes in the southern seas

1. Strategically important because of Malacca and Sunda straits
2. Trading patterns shaped by monsoons.
3. Linked India, Southeast Asia, and China to East Africa and the Middle East

C. Early traditions

1. Developed own cultures before outside influences arrived
2. Diverse ethnic groups speaking many languages
3. Societies built around nuclear family.
4. Women had greater equality than elsewhere in Asia.
 - a. Female merchants took part in spice trade.
 - b. Matrilineal descent was customary.

II. Indian Culture Spreads to Southeast Asia

A. Indian influence reaches its peak

1. Indian merchants and Hindu priests spread their culture.
2. Buddhist monks introduced Theravada beliefs.
3. Trade with India brought prosperity.
4. Indian influence was at its peak between 500 and 1000.

B. Indians bring Islam

1. Traders spread Islamic beliefs and culture to Indonesia and other parts of Southeast Asia.
2. Prevalence of Islam around Indian Ocean led to a thriving trade network.

Southeast Asia (cont.)

III. New Kingdoms and Empires Emerge

A. The Pagan kingdom arises

1. In Irrawaddy Valley (present-day Myanmar)
2. King Anawrahta united region in 1044.
3. Pagan became a major Buddhist center.
4. Fell in 1287 to the Mongols

B. The Khmer empire

1. Reached its peak between 800 and 1350; controlled much of present-day Cambodia, Thailand, and Malaysia
2. Rulers were Hindus, but ordinary people preferred Buddhism.
3. In 1100s, King Suryavarman II built temple complex at Angkor Wat.

C. Srivijaya empire flourishes

1. In Indonesia
2. Trading empire that flourished from 600s to 1200s; controlled Strait of Malacca.
3. Hinduism and Buddhism blended with local worship of nature spirits.

IV. Vietnam Emerges

A. Geography

1. Annam (now northern part of Vietnam)
2. The Red River irrigated rice paddies.

B. Chinese domination

1. Han armies conquered region in 111 B.C.; controlled by China for next 1,000 years.
2. Chinese ideas about government were adopted.
3. Confucianism, Mahayana Buddhism, and Daoism shaped society.

C. The Vietnamese preserve their identity

1. Trung Trac and Trung Nhi led uprising in A.D. 39.
2. Vietnam broke free from China in 939; remained a tributary state of China.